implementation of IREP plans and projects, including funds for demonstration projects, financial incentives for various energy devices, extension and other related activities for impelementation of the Block-level integrated rural energy plans. Funds and resources from other on-going schemes and programmes for energy and rural development are utilised to the extent possible in IREP blocks, as part of Block-level integrated rural energy plans.

(b) The Integrated Rural Energy Programme (IREP) is presently being implemented in Gujarat in 19 Blocks, one in each district of the State. In addition, one State-level IREP Cell, 4 District level Technical Back-up Units, one State Level Technical Back-up Unit and one National Pilot project have been set up and one Regional Training-cum-R&D Centre is being set up in Gujarat under the Integrated Rural Energy Programme. The Department of Energy and Petrochemicals of the Govt. of Gujarat is the nodal department responsible for IREP in Gujarat. The programme is being implemented through the Gujarat Energy Development Agency (GEDA) at the field level.

(c) The National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), New Delhi, was engaged by this Ministry to conduct evaluation study of IREP in six States, including Gujarat and Operations Research Group (ORG), Baroda was engaged to conduct the study in six other States.

(d) and (e) The evaluation studies have brought out that the programme has yielded many positive results. The IREP blocks and villages have a definite edge over the non-IREP blocks and villages. However, the studies have also brought out certain shortcomings in the implementation of the programme.

The programme is being continued during 1997-98 with such improvements as are required in the light of the evaluation reports, for a better and more effective implementation.

Wind power projects in coastal areas

4339. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any wind power projects for coastal areas of the country have been drawn up;

(b) if so, the details of such projects for Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether running/recurring cost of these projects is much less; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not setting up of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) A total wind power capacity of 900 MW has been installed in the country which includes projects in both coastal and inland areas of 8 States, including, Andhra Pradesh.

(b) In Andhra Pradesh, an aggregate capacity of 54 MW has so far been installed mainly as commercial projects at Ramagiri in Ananthapur Distt. of the State.

(c) The running/recurring cost of wind power projects is very low as they do not involve recurring use of fossil fuels.

(d) A large wind power capacity has already been established in the country. India has the third largest wind power capacity in the world. There is considerable private sector interest in setting up these projects. In fact, bulk of the total capacity, i.e. 850 MW out of 900 MW, has been set up by the private sector. The projects are set up at identified potential sites on the basis of overall techno-economic considerations.